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small but curious species. The soft, spongy pileus, conical in shape and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch high and broad, is suspended by its vertex or rather by a short stem rising from its vertex, and presents at the first glance much the same appearance as a cluster of *Hemiarcyria rubiformis* (Pers.) after the capillitium and upper part of the sporangia have fallen away, the broad, shallow pores of the *Polyporus* corresponding to the shallow, cup-shaped bases of the sporangia in the *Myxogaster*. The young specimen, before the pileus has expanded, resembles a little brush-like tuft of coarse, rust-colored hairs.

POLYPORUS ELLISII, Berk., Grev. VII, p. 4, appears to be a very rare species, only two specimens, so far as we know, having yet been found—the one from which the description in Grevillea was drawn, and one found near the same time by Mr. Ravenel in South Carolina.

J. B. E. & B. M. E.

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## NOTES ON FLORIDA FUNGI.--No. 1.

BY W. W. CALKINS, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

My experience in the study of the Fungi has been short, but I may remark *sweet*, if the satisfaction derived from finding a vast multitude of (to me) new forms amounts to anything. Then, there is the additional pleasure of causing others who make a special study of the Fungi, to rejoice in having placed in their hands elegant specimens *in quantity*, thus enabling them to make full investigations and comparisons calculated to determine definitely obscure points as to little known species. Florida offers an inviting field to the naturalist in any department, but not until lately was I aware that so much of interest is to be found in the *cryptogamic flora* of this section. Stimulated into action by the zeal of the editor of the N. A. F., I devoted a portion of last winter to collecting fungous forms in connection with the lichenoid species in which I had just become interested. As a result more than one hundred and fifty species rewarded my work. The whole of these were obtained within no greater distance than two miles from my home in Jacksonville. If this is astonishing, what might we expect were explorations made over larger areas, and particularly in the semi-tropical portions of the State? The first fact impressed upon my mind was, the teeming abundance of some species. The most beautiful, perhaps, and the first to attract my notice, was *Xerotus viticola*, B. & C., found *exclusively* on decaying and dead *Carpinus Americana*. This winter I have seen none as yet. It would be safe to say that I sent Mr. Ellis over ten thousand specimens. *Polyporus gilvus*, Schw., and *P. scruposus*, Fr., abundant. These two species are claimed to be identical, and I must defer to authority, while I stand in the forest and, observing their distinct habits of

development, wonder why this is so. They frequent entirely *Quercus aquatica*—decaying or dead. *Polyporus licnoides*, Mont., is an example of a tropical migration; it is rare. *P. carneus*, Nees., rare. *P. niphodes*, B. & Br., prolific on dead limbs. *P. Salleanus*, Berk., rare. *P. plebeius*, Berk., not abundant, but very fine and large. I have specimens over seven inches across. Then there are others of this genus which I omit now. Neglecting for the present a number of genera, I will refer to the curious *Glenospora Curtisii*, Berk., and the *Thelephora pedicellata*, Schw.—both found on small *Quercus aquatica* and *Myrica cerifera*, which in this locality seem to monopolize their attentions. Station low, wet, or damp grounds. *Grandenia tuberculata*, B. & C., occur sparingly on rotten branches. The leaves of various trees and shrubs swarm with certain species. And whether one looks above or below, he will not be disappointed.

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## AMANITINE AND ITS ANTIDOTE.\*

BY CHARLES MACILVAINE, OF PHILADELPHIA.

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The many cases of severe illness caused by toadstool eating, and the very general lack of knowledge as to the nature of the poisons producing them, as well as the proper treatment to be pursued as designated by the peculiar symptoms attaching to each poison of the several noxious varieties of toadstools, render it desirable that what is thus far ascertained about them should be widely published and known to the profession.

No physician called upon to give relief in a case of toadstool poisoning can do so intelligently, or be certain of success, unless he can distinguish, from a sample of the toadstool eaten, what particular poison is at work; or, from the symptoms, to which family of toadstools the illness is ascribable. With this knowledge in his possession, he holds the key to the situation, and, by its use, can stay the simple suffering produced by particular toadstools, or preserve his patient from what, without it, would be certain death, if any of the deadly kinds have been eaten.

It is the duty of the mycologist to inform the physician how to distinguish between those varieties of toadstools which create simply local troubles in the human system, and those whose poisonous principles are absorbed by it to its destruction.

The toadstools likely to be eaten are, Agarics (those having gills, or plaits, under their caps), Polypori and Boleti (having tubes and sponge-like surfaces beneath their caps), Hydnei (having spike-like projections

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